

**Minutes of Leitrim County Council meeting held Via Ms Teams on Monday, 10 January
2022**

Members Present: Councillor Mary Bohan
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Councillor Enda McGloin
Councillor Sean McGowan
Councillor Brendan Barry
Councillor Frank Dolan
Councillor Caillian Ellis
Councillor Pádraig Fallon
Councillor Paddy Farrell
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Thomas Mulligan
Councillor Sean McDermott
Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn
Councillor Enda Stenson
Councillor Justin Warnock

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke (Cathaoirleach) presiding

Apologies: Councillor Gerry Dolan
Councillor Felim Gurn

Officials Present: Lar Power, Chief Executive
Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development,
Planning and Infrastructural Services
Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate
Action and Emergency Services
Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services,
Community and Cultural Services
Samantha Healy, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services
and Housing
Shay O`Connor, Senior Engineer
Terry McGovern, Senior Engineer
Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Francis Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer
Gillian Tilson, Financial Management Accountant
Johanna Daly, Senior Executive Officer Economic Development
Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator
Kathleen Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

MM.1.22 Adoption of Minutes

MM.1.22a Minutes of 1st November 2021

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Enda Stenson
SECONDED by Cllr. Enda McGloin

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of 1st November 2021

MM.1.22b Minutes of 8th November 2021 Budget Meeting

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Ita Reynolds Flynn
SECONDED by Cllr Caillian Ellis

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Budget meeting of 8th November 2021.

MM.2.22 Receive report on the Programme of Capital Works for the forthcoming three years

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services presented a report on the Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming 3 years.

The following matters were raised by members:

Councillor Caillian Ellis noted that there was no funding in place over the period of the Capital Works Programme for the Courthouse in Ballinamore.

Councillor Frank Dolan sought an update on the timeframe for the construction for the fire station in Manorhamilton.

Councillor Des Guckian raised the following:-

- What input or contributions will developers make towards completing unfinished housing developments?
- The provision of turnkey unit social housing units in Dromod
- CFRAM flood relief works – slow progress
- Overall project cost of the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Bypass included in the report given that no design for project has been developed yet.
- Resurfacing requirements for old road into Dromod
- Multi million euro projects are planned for greenways and blueways, however more money is required to be spent on laneways.
- Remediation of the old Mohill Dump and funding provision

Councillor Enda McGloin paid tribute to the very significant capital works programme in place and sought confirmation that the LPT and commercial rates increases, that the majority of members have supported, is to be used to fund this programme.

In reply to the issues raised, Mr Vincent Dwyer responded as follows

- As was agreed by the Members in 2019, and at subsequent Budget meetings, the LPT and rates increases are ring fenced exclusively for the capital programme.
- The contribution towards unfinished housing estates is to complete some estates that remain unfinished and that are not covered by developer bonds.
- It is impossible to determine what the overall cost of the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod road project will be at this stage. The figure in the Capital plan is an estimate only and may vary once the design for the road is determined.
- The resurfacing of the old road into Dromod is a matter for consideration at the Carrick-on-Shannon at Municipal District meeting.
- Both landfills in Mohill and Manorhamilton are subject to EPA licences. Mohill landfill is assessed and monitored by consultants on behalf of Leitrim County Council and reports are furnished to the EPA who subsequently issue the license.
- Tenders for the construction of Manorhamilton Fire station will be sought in 2022 and substantial construction will be underway by mid-2023.
- No reply has been received from The Court Service following the most recent correspondence issued following a meeting of Ballinamore MD. A reminder will be issued to the Court Service on this matter. Leitrim County Council have no bespoke funding to purchase or fund refurbishment of the Ballinamore Courthouse.

In reply to queries raised by members Ms Mary Quinn replied as follows:

- The capital works programme before the members can have new projects added as necessary. If an opportunity arises for a turnkey housing scheme in Dromod, it will be considered.

In reply to the queries raised, Mr Joseph Gilhooly responded as follows:

- All funding applications made to Government Departments for Greenways and Blueways aim to maximise the funding available to Leitrim and thereby develop and improve the economic outlook of the county. Funding applied for and received is ring fenced specifically for the greenway programme. The funding cannot be diverted to other programmes such as the roads programme.
- Significant work has been completed on the CFRAMS project - The design process is well advanced and it is anticipated that the project will be brought to the Planning stage in the current year.

Councillor Des Guckian noted €1 million is being spent on unfinished housing estates and he queried what contribution is being paid by the developers of these estates.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke said the developers who initiated some of these projects are no longer in operation and it would not be financially viable to pursue them through legal proceedings.

Councillor Des Guckian re-iterated that Mohill landfill needs attention.

Mr Vincent Dwyer said he is not aware of any issue with the former landfill in Mohill. He re-iterated that monitoring is done by Leitrim County Council in accordance with the license agreement with the EPA. Copies of the monitoring reports have been furnished to Cllr Guckian. Mr Dwyer asked Mr Francis Gaffney, Senior Engineer to update the members on the Mohill landfill.

Mr Francis Gaffney advised Members that the former landfill in Mohill is fully licensed by the EPA. The manner of remediation carried out on Mohill landfill was specified by the EPA. Mohill landfill, as with all the old landfills, is not lined underneath and cannot be, and this is recognised and accepted by the EPA. Mr Gaffney said the monitoring that is carried, is not showing and heavy metals or other significant pollutants being emitted from Mohill landfill.

Councillor Justin Warnock welcomed the following capital works - new bridge at Lennox, traffic calming on the N15, redevelopment of Fowley Falls and future housing in Tullaghan.

Councillor Sean McGowan sought an update on the CFRAMS projects for Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim Village, Mohill and Dromod and the footpath at Rooskey.

Councillor Sean McGowan concurred with Councillor Des Guckian that a turnkey social housing project should sought for Dromod.

Councillor Stenson queried if this plan was a definite list of Greenway and Blueway projects or should additional projects come to light can they be considered.

Councillor Brendan Barry sought clarification on the allocation for office refurbishment in the programme.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke queried if there will be funding for the following: Three provinces amenity project, development of ancient monuments and provision of a footpath from Newtowngore to Lake Garadice.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon sought an update on the Council offices in Manorhamilton.

Mr Vincent Dwyer said that figure of €8.4 million is included in the plan to cover any future projects or developments that are not foreseen right now.

Ms Mary Quinn confirmed that the office project in Manorhamilton is currently being progressed and the allocation for office refurbishment relates to the refurbishment of the Council Chamber and the Customer Services Desk.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said that there are annual funding calls every year and the projects referred to by Cllr O'Rourke referred to will be considered in the context of funding calls announced.

Mr Terry McGovern advised members that there is a pavement strengthening taking place on the N4, N15 & N16, pavement realignment on the N16, Road Safety improvement works on the N16. A feasibility study on a new pedestrian bridge in Rooskey is being considered.

Mr Shay O'Connor said the CFRAM projects for Carrick-on-Shannon and Leitrim Village will be referred for planning approval in Q3 2022. No decisions have been made on flood defence locations or their extent. All the types of flood defence systems are currently under consideration. Public Consultations will take place before final schemes are agreed.

He further outlined that Mohill Flood Relief scheme is currently being considered by the OPW and Dromod has not yet been approved by the OPW. When the Carrick-on-Shannon and Leitrim Villages schemes are referred for planning approval, the Council will then engage with OPW regarding the Dromod scheme.

The Capital Works Programme was noted by the members.

MM.3.22 To approve the raising of a loan of €1,500,000 from the Housing Finance Agency (HFA) in accordance with Section 6 of the Local Government Act 2001, for the purposes of financing Housing Loans

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services presented a report on the raising of a loan of €1,500,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to finance loans approved under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme for 2022/2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Brendan Barry
SECONDED by Cllr. Caillian Ellis

It was **AGREED** that raising of a loan of €1,500,000 from the Housing Finance Agency in accordance with Section 6 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for the purposes of financing housing loans be approved.

Councillor Des Guckian outlined that an outright grant should come from Central Funding and he queried the amount and duration of the repayments.

Mr Vincent Dwyer clarified that Leitrim County Council act an agent between Central Government and the borrower. Leitrim County Council draw down the funds to finance mortgages to first time homeowners under Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme. The repayment the borrowers make to the Council pays the repayments on the funding that has been drawn down. 14 applications with a value of €1.8 million were approved in 2021. There is a possibility that a greater number of applications will be received this year and additional funding may be required later in the year at which point this matter will come before the members again to approve the additional borrowing.

MM.4.22 Consider the Leitrim County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan

The Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2022 as circulated to the members appears as

Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Caillian Ellis
SECONDED by Cllr. Frank Dolan

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022 be adopted.

Councillor Brendan Barry referred to the 22 weeks turnaround time for vacant council houses and he proposed that a more ambitious target should be put in place.

MM.5.22 **Receive progress report on the Corporate Plan**

The progress report on the Corporate Plan as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The report was noted by the Members.

MM.6.22 **Receive Annual Report from the Audit Committee 2021**

The Annual Report, 2021 from the Audit Committee to Leitrim County Council, submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 122 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 5 of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The report was noted by the Members.

MM.7.22 **Management Reports - Oct 2021 & November 2021**

The Management Reports for October and November 2021 were circulated to Members in accordance with Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

Councillor Des Guckian welcomed that the Carrick-on-Shannon Waste Water Treatment Plant has been identified by Irish Water in the National Water Resources Plan. Councillor Guckian asked that the operation of CCTV in Carrick-on-Shannon be reviewed before phase 2 is progressed.

Councillor Guckian sought clarification on the preferred alternative or route options referred to on the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod By Pass.

Mr Terry McGovern said all alternative transportation solutions are being considered and the preferred alternative and/or option will go on public display in Q1 of 2022.

The monthly management reports were noted by Members.

MM.8.22 Commitments

There were no commitments to be considered by the members.

MM.9.22 Report from Corporate Policy Group

Ms Mary Quinn, outlined that the Corporate Policy Group had considered the following items at their online meeting held on the 4th January 2022:

- Updates from the following SPC's
 - Planning, Economic Development & Infrastructure SPC
 - Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development SPC
 - Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture SPC
- Consider arrangements for upcoming plenary and Municipal District meetings including the special meeting re Draft County Development Plan
- Items for Council Meeting 10th January 2022
- Consider members attendance at upcoming conference, training events and seminars

The update was noted by Members.

MM.10.22 To agree date and process of special meeting to consider Draft County Development Plan 2023 - 2029, SEA and AA reports

Ms Mary Quinn advised members that the Corporate Policy Group proposed that a Special Meeting to consider the Draft County Development plan would take place on Monday 24th January 2022 at 11 am.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Enda Stenson
SECONDED by Cllr. Sean McDermott

It was **AGREED** that a special meeting of Leitrim County Council would take place to consider the Draft County Development plan on Monday 24th January 2022 at 11 am.

Ms Quinn advised members of requirement to suspend standing order No. 17 for this special meeting on 24th January 2022, which deals with the format of motions submitted by each member i.e. that no motion should have no more than 100 words.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mary Bohan
SECONDED by Cllr. Brendan Barry

It was **AGREED** that Standing Order No 17 would be suspended to allow members to submit their proposed amendments to the draft County Development Plan.

Ms Quinn advised the members that an explanatory email will be issued to all members outlining the process regarding the submission of proposed amendments to the Draft County Development Plan. Proposed amendments to the Draft County Development should be submitted as individual items and in writing before Friday, 14th January 2022.

MM.11.22 Attendance at conferences/training

It was noted that all notifications of training/conferences are circulated to members.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Mary Bohan
SECONDED by Caillian Ellis

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Paddy Farrell and Councillor Justin Warnock at the Climate and Biodiversity Workshop in Wood Quay, Dublin on the 4th December 2019 be retrospectively approved”.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Sean McGowan
SECONDED by Cllr Paddy Farrell

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke and Councillor Caillian Ellis at the conference on the “Finance Act 2021” in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth on the 7th to 9th January 2022 be retrospectively approved”.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Sean McGowan
SECONDED by Cllr Paddy Farrell

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Paddy O’Rourke at the Leitrim Association Dinner Dance on the 26th February 2022 in London be approved”

MM.12.22 Meeting Correspondence

1. Letter from the HSE dated 8th November 2021 confirming they are not in a position to attend Council meeting on 10th January 2022.
2. Email of 9th November 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on health care services.
3. Letter from the OPW dated 11th November 2021 acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on the Shannon Flood Management.

Councillor Brendan Barry said there is an issue with the Jamestown weir, and it is not functioning properly and thereby causing issues in Leitrim Village and Carrick. Funding was to be made available for the weir and he proposed that a more specific letter issue in this regard.

Mr Shay O'Connor said the Jamestown weir works properly but the gates are not lifted high enough. Detailed discussions are currently taking place with Waterways Ireland and Mr O'Connor confirmed he will keep Councillor Barry informed and there is no need to write to Waterways Ireland on this matter.

4. Email of 15th November 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on day care services in County Leitrim.
5. Resolution passed by Sligo County Council calling for support in conjunction with Tusla, Department of Children and Equality and the Gardai to establish an appropriate and safe Refuge Centre for victims and survivors (mainly women) of domestic violence in Sligo and surrounding area.

Councillor Des Guckian noted the correspondence.

6. November newsletter from the County Leitrim Society of New York.
7. Acknowledgement from the Office of the Taoiseach in receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on HAP rent limits.
8. Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on prospecting licenses.
9. Email of 2nd December 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Finance regarding the difficulty facing the community sector in obtaining insurance coverage.
10. Resolution passed by Galway County Council dated 29th November 2021: Boycott on goods from occupied territories.
11. Email of 6th December 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme limits.

Councillor Brendan Barry noted the rent increase in Leitrim of 17% in the past 12 months.

12. Resolution passed by Sligo County Council in regard to prospecting license to Flintridge Resources (Galantas) for almost 50 townlands in North Leitrim.
13. December newsletter from the County Leitrim Society of New York.
14. Resolution passed by Sligo County Council asking the Minister for Rural and Community Development to increase the funding under RRDF Fund from 75% to 90% for the local authorities in the North & Western Regional Assembly area, now identified as a region in transition to ensure that projects can be funded at local

level.

15. Letter from Irish Rail dated 13th December 2021 regarding the early morning Commuter Rail Services from Longford.
16. Letter from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the Local Authority Housing Delivery Action Plans.

Councillor Des Guckian noted this correspondence.

17. Letter from the OPW dated 16th December 2021 regarding resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on managing flood risk on the Shannon Catchment.

Councillor Des Guckian outlined that there should be one body overseeing the Shannon and that 17 is far too many and this leads to inefficiencies.

Councillor Sean McGowan concurred with Cllr Guckian's view. He acknowledged that many pinch points have been dealt with south of Athlone, but a lot have yet to be dealt with.

18. Resolution passed by Donegal County Council asking the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the restoration of Section 140 motions by Councils.
19. Email of 20th December 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth regarding resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on leave provisions for employees experiencing pregnancy loss.
20. Resolution passed by Monaghan County Council calling on the Department of Justice to take full responsibility for the policy and government of the state's Coroner Service and to ensure that in the event of a sudden unexpected death, death by suicide, car accident, drowning etc. that a full weekend post-mortem service be provided.
21. Resolution passed by Galway County Council calling on the Minister for Finance to extend the help-to-buy incentive scheme for at least five more years after he has carried out his review in 2022.
22. Resolution passed by Louth County Council supporting the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland.
23. Email of 23rd December 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the re-opening of day care services.

Other matters raised under meeting Correspondence

High Dependency Unit for South Leitrim

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn queried if there was any update from the HSE on the provision of a High Dependency Unit in South Leitrim, which she and Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke have raised motions on last year. She proposed that the elected members who attend the HSE Forum meetings raise this issue at their next meeting.

Insurance Cover for Community Playgrounds

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn proposed that Leitrim County Council contact IPB in relation to insurance for community playgrounds. Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn referred to the Community Group in Gortletteragh that have received funding from LEADER towards their playground development project and are unable to get insurance for it.

Funding Announcement for Drumshanbo

Councillor Enda McGloin welcomed the funding announced for Drumshanbo under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Councillor Enda McGloin paid tribute to Mr Joseph Gilhooly and his team for their involvement in this successful funding application.

MM.13.22 Motion from Councillor Mary Bohan - Spina Bifida and/or Hydracephalus

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cllr Mary Bohan;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly TD, as a matter of urgency, to put measures in place to deal with children who are on long waiting lists and are suffering from Spina Bifida and/or Hydracephalus. These children are in urgent need of Orthopaedic intervention."

Councillor Mary Bohan gave the background to her motion and said that this is a very serious issue whereby children are losing their ability to walk because of the lack of orthopaedic intervention. Councillor Bohan said it is very unfair that children that need this intervention are left on waiting lists. Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that this resolution be forwarded to all local authorities.

Councillor Brendan Barry supported the motion and said that a lot of these children can be treated successfully and have a good quality of life. If children are left for 1.5 years these children cannot undergo the necessary operations.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion and said there are many other areas children that are not being supported in e.g. autism.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke also supported the motion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mary Bohan
SECONDED by Cllr. Brendan Barry

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly TD, as a matter of urgency, to put measures in place to deal with children who are on long waiting lists and are suffering from Spina Bifida and/or Hydracephalus. These children are in urgent need of Orthopaedic intervention.

MM.14.22 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian - Homelessness

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;

"That, in light of growing homelessness and evictions, Leitrim County Council officials immediately apply for central government funding to provide at least one temporary accommodation hostel for homeless people in Carrick-on-Shannon and that it provides all necessary back-up services therein."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"The provision of a homeless hostel with all the necessary wrap around supports is a specialist service provided by NGOs and the voluntary sector. Leitrim County Council does not have the expertise required to establish a homeless hostel and operate all the necessary support services.

In the absence of any NGOs or voluntary providers operating in County Leitrim, Leitrim County Council will continue to access services as required where there are opportunities to do so."

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply and said that this issue is within the remit of the local authority and Leitrim County Council cannot say otherwise. Leitrim is the only county not operating a dedicated homeless hostel, and this service needs to be provided locally.

In speaking at length on his motion Councillor Des Guckian made reference to an ongoing situation in Carrick-on-Shannon concerning a homeless person and he criticised how the executive have dealt with this situation. Councillor Guckian said that Leitrim County Council are not listening to the people and are "shunting" their homeless presentations to Sligo

Ms Mary Quinn said Leitrim County Council do not ignore homeless people and everyone's case is heard. Ms Quinn noted that this issue has been raised at the last 3 meetings and the provisions in relation to dealing with homelessness presentations have been detailed at length. Ms Quinn referred to the remarks made by Councillor Guckian and drew attention to the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Elected Members. Ms Mary Quinn outlined

that Leitrim County Council is a member of the North West Regional Homeless Forum and homelessness funding is administered on a regional basis. The provision of a homeless hostel with all the necessary wrap around supports is a specialist service provided by NGOs and the voluntary sector. Leitrim County Council does not have the expertise required to establish a homeless hostel and operate all the necessary support services.

Ms Samantha Healy said that Leitrim County Council is able to access regional homeless facilities, which provide a variety of wrap around support services aimed at supporting homeless persons. Leitrim County Council can provide a homeless person with a bed locally, but the Council does not have the expertise or the resources to provide the additional services that are often required in these situations.

After a lengthy discussion on the issue of homelessness, Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke referred to Standing Orders and said every member would get 3 minutes to speak on a motion as a result of the behaviour of Councillor Des Guckian in relation to his motion.

At this point of the meeting Councillor Des Guckian put his microphone on mute and his contribution at this point of the discussion could not be heard. Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator informed Cllr Guckian and the other members of this and said he was unable to unmute Councillor Guckian and advised Cllr Guckian to unmute his microphone.

Following a query from Cllr Enda McGloin on the ongoing homeless case in Carrick-on-Shannon, Ms Mary Quinn advised members that the Housing Department of Leitrim County Council is currently working with the individual concerned and it is hoped an outcome will be achieved in the short term.

Councillors Mary Bohan, Brendan Barry, Sean McGowan, Justin Warnock, Enda Stenson, Sean McDermott, Paddy Farrell and Frank Dolan paid tribute to and supported the staff of the Housing Department of Leitrim County Council and disagreed with the accusations and remarks made by Cllr Guckian earlier in the debate.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire asked that nobody's personal circumstances should be discussed by any member at a public meeting. This was supported by Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke.

Councillor Des Guckian said there are at least 4 people sleeping rough on the streets of Carrick-on-Shannon.

Ms Mary Quinn acknowledged the supportive remarks and comments expressed by members concerning the efforts of the staff in the Housing Department.

Ms Quinn outlined that Leitrim Housing Authority do not have details of those people referred to as homeless by Councillor Guckian and asked Councillor Guckian, in his role as a public representative, to encourage these households/individuals to liaise with Housing staff so that their situation can be dealt with.

Ms Samantha Healy said the provisions of the Homeless support regulations stipulate that a

person must present to the Housing Authority if they are homeless, so that they can avail of the suite of services provided.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive said Leitrim County Council should not be discussing the details of specific cases in public and he assured the members that Ms Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services and the Housing team have left no stone unturned in this or any other case.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke asked that the Councillor Guckian review and reappraise his approach on how he deals with issues.

MM.15.22 Motion from Councillor Padraig Fallon - Additional Services at Bring Banks

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council provide additional services at our bring banks in the county that include facilities for paper and plastic."

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services

"Currently our waste By Laws require every household in the county, on or close to a serviced route, to engage with a service provider for the provision of a three bin system for the segregation and collection of household waste. The Blue Bin includes for most domestic plastic and paper waste. The network of bring banks in Leitrim caters for recyclable items such as Glass, and textiles which cannot be put into the blue recycling bin for collection. Our two Civic Amenity sites at Mohill and Manorhamilton cater for all plastic containers, plastic wrapping, paper and larger items of packaging such as cardboard boxes and also other items which cannot be disposed of in the domestic blue bins such as electrical goods, wood, metal, aerosols, bulbs and batteries etc.

We do not consider the provision of paper and plastic recycling facilities at our bring banks to be necessary at this time as we believe that the current arrangements provide sufficient outlet for these materials."

Councillor Brendan Barry moved Councillor Padraig Fallon's motion as he had left the meeting.

MM.16.22 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan - Grants Limits for Community Wastewater Connection Network

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"I seek the support of members in calling on the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to significantly increase the grant limits for Community Wastewater Connection Networks in the new Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022 – 2024, to allow some of these schemes to go ahead in County Leitrim.

The current level of maximum available grants in the Programme 2019 – 2021 for Group Sewerage Schemes is fixed at €6,250 per house is insufficient and makes it impossible for such schemes to progress in County Leitrim."

Councillor Sean McGowan said the maximum available grants in the Programme 2019 – 2021 for Group Sewerage Schemes is fixed at €6,250 per house is insufficient and makes it impossible for such schemes to progress in County Leitrim. Councillor McGowan said the estimated cost in Leitrim has been quoted as €30,000 per house, which makes it very difficult to form group sewerage schemes in County Leitrim. The level of funding is not adequate and he proposed that a meeting be held with Minister O’Brien in this regard.

Councillors Des Guckian, Justin Warnock Councillor, Finola Armstrong McGuire and Paddy Farrell supported the motion.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke asked that this motion be circulated to all adjoining authorities. Councillor Sean McGowan agreed with this.

Councillor Enda Stenson queried if this is a national problem as he didn’t see how Leitrim alone can tackle this issue.

Councillor Sean McDermott said this is a widespread issue throughout the county and he said communities cannot be expected to raise the balance of the funding at the levels quoted.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sean McGowan
SECONDED by Cllr. Des Guckian

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to significantly increase the grant limits for Community Wastewater Connection Networks in the new Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022 – 2024, to allow some of these schemes to go ahead in County Leitrim. The current level of maximum available grants in the Programme 2019 – 2021 for Group Sewerage Schemes is fixed at €6,250 per house is insufficient and makes it impossible for such schemes to progress in County Leitrim and that a meeting be requested with Minister O’Brien in this regard.

MM.17.22 Motion from Councillor Sean McDermott - Broadband

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask for an update on broadband for the county. Now that more people are working from home what progress is been made on the delivery of broadband to schools and Community Working Hubs."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"NBI Fibre-to-the-Home

The National Broadband Plan is a 7-year plan to build a new high-speed fibre broadband

network for rural Ireland where deployment is due to be completed by the end of 2026.

In Leitrim, there are currently 11,469 premises identified by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications as intervention areas where there is no existing or planned commercial high speed broadband network. This accounts for 51.4% of all premises in the county including homes, farms, commercial businesses, and schools. Under the National Broadband Plan, Leitrim will see an investment of €46M in a new high speed fibre broadband network which will service premises within these intervention areas.

National Broadband Ireland (NBI) is the company which was awarded the contract to roll out the broadband network. They are actively surveying locations throughout Leitrim and to date they have completed surveying Keshcarrigan, Drumcong, Drumshambo, Mohercregg, Aughnasheelin, Rooskey, Foxfield, Fenagh, Ballinamore, Gorvagh, Kilnagross, Kilclare, Efrinagh and Eslinbridge.

Surveying and designing are an important time-consuming part of mapping out how every premise will be connected, and this process provides the blueprint for how fibre broadband will be delivered throughout Leitrim. The rollout of the National Broadband Plan however is approximately six months behind schedule due to the disruptions caused by Covid-19.

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

In advance of the Fibre-to-the-Home roll out, the National Broadband Plan provides for the delivery of Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) nationwide. Within Leitrim there are currently 11 BCP locations where a minimum of 150Mb highspeed broadband access is provided to the local community in that area. The deployment stage and location of each BCP is as follows:

Survey Stage (1 BCP)

- Killenummery Hall

Install Stage (2 BCPs - Scheduled to go live in 1st quarter 2022)

- Leitrim Gaels Community Facility
- New Ballagh Centre

Live (8 BCPs)

- Aughawillan Community Centre
- Aughavas Gaa Park
- Aughawillan Gaa Clubrooms
- Aghanlish Community Centre
- Askill Community Centre
- Gortletteragh Community Centre
- Killargue Community Centre
- Glencar Waterfall

School BCPs

In addition to BCPs, Primary schools within Intervention Areas are also being connected for educational access as part of the National Broadband Plan. In total there are 15 schools within Intervention Areas.

To date the following schools in Leitrim have been connected under the National Broadband Plan:

- Aughawillan National School
- Saint Michael's Primary School

The remaining 13 schools within intervention areas are still in planning for this year and Q1 next year.

Additionally, under the broadband for school's programme, HEAnet delivers high speed broadband for all of Ireland's schools on behalf of the Government.

HEAnet has confirmed that within Leitrim County "All 7 Post Primary schools are using the HEAnet awarded broadband, the minimum speed for these connections is 200Mb.

Also, all 37 Primary schools have been awarded a connection by the Department of Education as part of the Broadband for Schools Programme with varying speeds and technologies, ranging from 12Mb Wireless to 150Mb FTTH. Of the 37 schools, 4 schools are not using the awarded connection as they are awaiting a more suitable option to be tendered / awarded."

A map providing all the school's currently availing of the HEAnet high speed broadband can be found here: <https://www.heanet.ie/schools#live-school-maps>"

Councillor Sean McDermott welcomed the comprehensive and detailed reply.

Councillor Sean McDermott queried as to when is the deadline for this work to be completed. Councillor McDermott said broadband connectivity is now more important than ever as more and more people are working from home. He referred to areas of the county that cannot avail of reliable broadband and highlighted the case of the local school in his community.

Councillor Justin Warnock supported the comments made by Cllr McDermott.

Councillor Mary Bohan referred to Drumkeerin as an area not fully covered by Broadband and she highlighted how important Broadband is now for people going to school etc and asked that more clarity be provided regarding its rollout.

Councillors Frank Dolan, Des Guckian, Brendan Barry and Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke expressed their disappointment on the scheduled rollout of the service to 51.4% of the premises in the county.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly informed Members that the scheduled rollout in Leitrim is 70% from 2025 to 2026.

MM.18.22 Motion from Councillor Justin Warnock - Townlands in Leitrim that have no registered electors

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"I ask Leitrim County Council how many townlands in Leitrim have no registered electors and what are the names of those townlands?"

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"As per the Draft Register of Electors 2022/2023 that was prepared on 1st November 2021, there are 180 townlands listed in which there are no registered electors. There are 1868 townlands in total identified on the Draft Register of Electors 2022/2023.

The list of townlands with no registered electors on the Draft Register of Electors 2022/2023 is as follows:

Creevelea, Crumpaun, Cleighragh, Larganavaddoge, Gubmanus, Tullyderrin, Ceathramhad Caol, Conway South, Meenagraun, Ardagh-Gilbride, Goblán, Mollynadinta, Shasgar, Lughawnagh, Tawnylust Barr Upper, Councill, Lisgool, Bronagh, Cleggan, Gubnacurrafore, Moneyduff, Tullintaggart, Arroo, Bomahas, Carrowboy, Mullanavockaun, Sragarve, Inis Temple, Rosclogher, Cloghmeen, Cloonclare, Faughary, Tully, Carrickgoon, Aghamore, Formoyle, Treankillew, Tullinloughan, Aghameelta Barr, Leean, Sramore, Bargowla, Boleymaguire, Braudpark, Camalt, Glassalt, Gowlaunrevagh, Knocknacoska, Seltan, Tinnybeg, Tullynamukduff, Boleybaun, Cloonmeone Lower, Corloughtamalty, Derreens, Derrindangan, Derrinvoher, Derrycullinan Beg, Drummanacappul, Gortacorka, Leckaun, Mullaghbaun, Stangaun, Greaghnaslieve, Moneenatieve, Seltanasaggart, Seltanaskeagh, Tullyveane, Brockagh, Drumillon, Drumlumman Glebe, Geskanagh Glebe, Gortahork, Gorteen, Sweetwood Little, Tullynasharragh, Altavra, Barlear, Boleybrack, Greaghnagon, Lackagh, Tonlegee, Tullinwannia, Tullynacross, Alteen, Alteenacres, Derrinvoney Lower, Fingreagh Lower, Fingreagh Upper, Gortnasillagh, Kilnagarns Lower, Kilnagarns Upper, Ross Beg, Tullaghans, Greenaun South, Drummangarvagh, Gubb, Lugmore.

Killadough, Corralahan, Whiterock, Curraghashillaun, Corracreeny, Cullies, Branra, Churchfield, Derrinkip, Derrymacoffin, Drumkirwan, Kiltyfinnan, Gorteenoran, Greaghrevagh Beg, Dernasmallan, Drumbad, Probagh, Drumergoole, Druminuff, Bolganard, Derryniggin, Drumahira, Loughscur, Selton (McDonald), Selton (Moran), Cultia, Drumnifinnila Barr, Derrynaseer, Barnameenagh, Derrinteigroe, Largan Mountain, Corderry Moreton, Cormeeltan, Aughrim, Drumadykey, Drumgud, Derreen Southwell, Edenavow, Altakeeran, Seltanahunshin, Tullylacken.

Derrylaur, Derryoughter, Gortaggle, Doora, Ummera, Corduffhill, Cormore, Cornagreacha South, Mellick, Cartron, Cornageeha, Tulrusk, Laheen South, Aghnacarra, Cloonmulligan, Greagh, Inismackee, Portaneought, Gortanure, Coraughrim, Sallaghan, Derreen, Drumoula, Millpark, Aghintober, Corracramph, Drisoge, Lisdromarea South, Carrickey, Fahymore, Drumcromaun, Laheen, Drumduff South, Kilmaghera, Sheemore, Aghnacross, Cloonlaughil, Rosharry, Aghinteeduff, Aghnamona, Rinnagowna."

Councillor Justin Warnock said Ireland's most rural county is Leitrim but it will be Ireland's

“wilderness county”. He highlighted that it is important to get people back into our county and that conifers are replacing people and this needs to be addressed in the upcoming County Development Plan.

Councillor Sean McDermott referred to 8 townlands in his electoral area that are unpopulated, and similar situations exist throughout the County.

Councillor Enda McGloin outlined his view that Members need to be careful with the language they use as describing the county as a wilderness does not help Leitrim. Some townlands that had few residents many years ago have now had a significant increase in population. Councillor Justin Warnock clarified this would not be his intention.

MM.19.22 Motion from Councillor Enda McGloin - Funding Grants (Failte Ireland Grants) paid to hospitality industry

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"Can I ask the Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning and Tourism to provide a report to members at the January meeting on the number of funding grants (Failte Ireland grants) paid to the hospitality industry in the County in 2021 and provide details on how many businesses qualified and the numbers who had applications turned down or disqualified."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"Leitrim County Council administered the outdoor furniture scheme on behalf of Failte Ireland. Initially the scheme was to assist restaurants/cafes who provide food to the public for consumption but was subsequently extended to include ‘wet pubs’. Items eligible were tables, chairs, umbrellas, electric heaters, screens/windbreaks, plant stands/holder and wooden decking floor platforms.

The Council received a total of 63 applications while 52 received funding. Of the remaining applications 6 were not eligible for this scheme, 2 applicants withdrew while 3 approved applications did not subsequently claim the grant or not claimed within the allowed timescale."

Councillor Enda McGloin noted the reply received and said the impact the Failte Ireland grants businesses in Leitrim can clearly be seen and he proposed that Leitrim County Council go back to the Government to ask Failte Ireland to review the scheme and reinstate it in late spring and early summer to make it possible for other businesses to avail of this grant.

MM.20.22 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell - Protect our Small Farms

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy Farrell;

"I call on Leitrim County Council to call on the Minister for Agriculture and the Government

to protect our small farms, who will be forced out of business due to ludicrous fertilizer price rises which are being created by large companies and tariffs created by the European Union itself."

Councillor Paddy Farrell said we need to protect our small farms who will be forced out of business due to ludicrous fertilizer prices which are created by large companies and tariffs created by the EU. He called on the members to contact their MEPS on this matter and he said he could not see any other industry cope with 100% price increase. Councillor Farrell referred to a voucher system that could be put in place like in the 1990's that could help farmers meet rising input costs.

Councillors Des Guckian, and Sean McGowan, Justin Warnock and Paddy O'Rourke supported the motion.

Councillor Brendan Barry said the reduction of tariffs by the European Commission is the only way to change this.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke called for members to talk to their MEPS, and support Billy Kellegher MEP proposals on the review of live animals transport within mainland Europe.

Councillor Brendan Barry was in support of this proposal.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Paddy Farrell
SECONDED by Cllr. Des Guckian

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture and the Government to protect our small farms, who will be forced out of business due to ludicrous fertilizer price rises which are being created by large companies and tariffs created by the European Union itself.

MM.21.22 Motion from Councillor Brendan Barry - Not to sell or privatise any more state-owned utilities or bodies

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Brendan Barry;

"I request that Leitrim County Council call on Government not to sell or privatise any more state-owned utilities or bodies. Recent revelations about €50 million being paid to investors in fees and interest from the National Broadband plan before a single house was connected and the fact that the National Broadband plan will be paying rent to Eir for use of infrastructure shows the consequences, extra cost, and delays in the provision of broadband as a result of the sale of Eircom."

Councillor Brendan Barry gave the background to his motion and said people are suffering now because of privatisation and selling off stated owned utilities or bodies. He called for

the support of the members to request the Government not to sell or privatise any more state-owned utilities or bodies.

Councillors Justin Warnock and Mary Bohan supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion and said both AIB and BOI should be included in the motion. Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke referred to the deterioration in service experienced by clients when privatisation occurred in the UK. He also referred to a local resident that got a water connection charge from Irish Water that was four times the price he could have got, for the same work, had Irish Water allowed the work to be done by a local competent contractor.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Brendan Barry
SECONDED by Cllr. Justin Warnock

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on Government not to sell or privatise any more state-owned utilities or bodies. Recent revelations about €50 million being paid to investors in fees and interest from the National Broadband plan before a single house was connected and the fact that the National Broadband plan will be paying rent to Eir for use of infrastructure shows the consequences, extra cost, and delays in the provision of broadband as a result of the sale of Eircom.

MM.22.22 Motion from Councillor Paddy O'Rourke - All-island strategic Rail Network review public consultation

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;

"I ask that Leitrim County Council join with Sligo, Longford and Roscommon County Councils in making a submission to the all-island strategic rail network review public consultation, which invited submissions before January 17th, making the point of how important Irish Rail is to our region as a carrier, including asking for a mid-day Longford to Sligo service and joining along with the above counties and counties Galway, Donegal & Mayo in seeking the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor, i.e. Sligo to Claremorris."

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke welcomed the review on all-island Strategic Rail Review by Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D., and the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon MLA.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that a train service to be put in place departing Longford to Sligo between 10 am and 1 pm each day as this service would be useful for people to access hospital appointments in Sligo and other such matters.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this and referred to the reopening of the Western Rail corridor.

Councillor Enda McGloin said there are 2 options on the Western Rail Corridor – developing the greenway or reopening of the Western Rail corridor. Cllr McGloin said it was proving very difficult to get a consensus on this and he proposed that this be put to the North Western Regional Assembly for support. Cllr McGloin outlined that it could provide a useful link service to Knock Airport.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke supported this.

Councillor Sean McGowan said the service would be an excellent means of transporting freight along the west of Ireland.

Councillor Des Guckian said he partly supported the motion and he referred to the correspondence received on the 13th December 2021 from the Chief Executive of Irish Rail regarding an early morning commuter rail service from Longford confirming that such a service is not considered to be at a level where base costs could be offset. Councillor Des Guckian highlighted that Irish rail have abandoned running freight trains.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Paddy O'Rourke

SECONDED by Cllr. Sean McGowan

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council join with Sligo, Longford and Roscommon County Councils in making a submission to the all-island strategic rail network review public consultation, which invited submissions before January 17th, making the point of how important Irish Rail is to our region as a carrier, including asking for a mid-day Longford to Sligo service and joining along with the above counties and counties Galway, Donegal & Mayo in seeking the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor, i.e. Sligo to Claremorris.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 1.27 pm

Signed:

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
Cathaoirleach

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator

Dated: Monday, 7th March 2022